

NOTES ON TWO SPECIES OF SPHECINE WASPS  
DESCRIBED BY H. T. FERNALD FROM  
SOUTH AMERICA

(Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

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During a recent visit at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, I studied the types of *Chlorion davis* and *C. simillimum*, both described by Fernald in 1907. *C. davis* should be assigned to the genus *Sphex sensu stricto*, and *simillimum* to *Prionyx*, species group *thomae*.

Examination of the unique female type of *davis* (MCZ type #14347) reveals that it agrees in every detail with the African species *Sphex metallicus* Taschenberg, and should be relegated to synonymy. The locality label on Fernald's type reads Cordova, Argentina. Willink (1951) in his review of the Argentine and Chilean Sphecinae, did not list any material of Fernald's species and only quoted the original description. It seems safe to assume that the specimen on which Fernald based his description was labeled in error and originated in Africa.

*Prionyx (Priononyx) simillimus* (MCZ type #14348) was described from three specimens, two males and a female, all labeled cotypes. I am designating one of the males as lectotype, and have placed a lectotype label with the specimen. In his description Fernald stated that sternite VI of the male was deeply emarginate. It is true that one of the males appears to have this feature, but close examination proves that the emargination was caused by the breaking away of part of the sternite. In the other male the sternite is entire. Fernald did not mention the distinct fossulae of the male antenna. In *simillimus*, flagellomeres III-VI have broad, spiculate fossulae, and VII has a short triangular fossula.

LITERATURE CITED

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WILLINK, A.

1951. Las especies Argentinas y Chilenas de Chlorionini. *Acta Zool. Lilloana.* 11:53-225.